

GENERATION CHART

79- Elisha Carroll

PAGE 1

Great-grandfather

Born

1790

Where Sampson Cty. N.C.

Married April 5, 1817

Where

Died

Where Cherokee Co. ALA. 1845

Carroll
23

39- Elisha Carroll

Grandfather

1810

Born

Where

Married

Where Nov 24, 1894

Died Antioch Can.

Where VANDLER, MS

(Bizer)

19- Elisha G. Carroll

Father

1849

Born Dec.

Where Ms.

Married July 15, 1882

Where Jackson Cty. Ms.

Died

Where

80- Sarah Brown

Great-grandmother

Born

2-8-1798

Where

Died

Before 1850

Where WILKINSON Cty GA.

81- Arthur Dannielly

pg. 12

Great-grandfather

Born January 2, 1791

Where

Married Feb. 13, 1819

Where Hancock Cty. Ga.

Died

1847

Where COVINGTON Co, ALA.

40- Mahala Danniell

Grandmother

Born

1827

Where

FLA

Died

Where

82- Jane Devereaux

pg. 13

Great-grandmother

Born

1804

Where HANCOCK Cty. GEORGIA

Died

Where

9-

Joseph Wackaberry
Carroll

Born January 29, 1888

Where Jackson Cty. Ms.

Married

Where

died November 7, 1967

Biloxi, Ms.

83-

Great-grandfather

Born

Where

Married

Where

Died

Where

(Dutch)

41- John Bobbinger

Grandfather

Born

1815

Where Bavaria,

Married

Where

Died

Where

84-

Great-grandmother

Born

Where

Died

Where

20- Wilhelmenia A.

(DIME)

Mother Bobinger

Born April 10, 1865

Where

Died MARCH 31, 1965

Where Biloxi, Ms.

42- Mary Jane Debrough

Grandmother

Born

Where

Died

Where

86-

Great-grandmother

Born

Where

Died

Where

J.V. WALRAVEN

Supreme court.

1 00 Jim Williams and Jim Robinson,

1 00 (col.) burglary, five years each in the

1 00 penitentiary.

1 00 Charles Mathews, (col) burglary, six

1 00 months in the penitentiary.

1 00 John Tanner, burglary, six months

1 00 in the penitentiary.

1 00 Irwin Batson, petit larceny, three

1 00 months in county jail.

1 00 G. Buskin, assault and battery three

1 00 months in county jail, fined \$500 and

1 00 \$1000 peace bond for two years.

1 00 The dry kiln at Hunter, Benn & Co's

1 00 mill, which was destroyed by fire a

1 00 short time ago, has been rebuilt and

1 00 is now in good working order.

1 00 Born, to Mr. and Mrs. John A.

1 00 Whinn, at East Pascagoula river

1 00 light station, yesterday morning, a

1 00 girl baby. We congratulate the young

1 00 parents.

1 00 Another Democrat in town. He

2 00 arrived at the residence of our effi-

1 00 cient Deputy Sheriff Mr. C. D. Moore

1 00 Sunday last. Mother and child doing

1 00 well.

1 00 Mr. Hartie C. Herring, with his

2 00 family, of Moss Point, have moved

1 00 into Mrs. Bragg's house near the Pas-

1 00 cagoula river. It is so pleasant to

1 00 have one's mother-in-law with him

2 00 all the time.

1 00 It is a dangerous habit some chil-

1 00 dren of the town have of playing on

1 00 the cars standing in the yard, and

1 00 running along by the side of moving

1 00 trains. It should be stopped before

1 00 some of them get seriously hurt.

32 00 Mr. Elisha Carroll died at Van-

20 00 cleave, this county, on the 24th of Nov.

31 35 1894. He was born in Waldon county,

35 25 Florida, in 1810. He served in the

43 80 Indian war of 1831, under Capt. Bar-

25 00 rar, Brown's regiment, and had been

25 00 drawing a pension for a year.

25 Capt. L. T. Belt has had a neat cot-

25 tage moved from next to DeJean &

25 Mitchell's store to a vacant lot about

25 75 yards west from there, and will oc-

3 00 cupy it as a residence, it being more

1 75 convenient to his ice factory than his

3 20 present residence. Mr. G. D. Atchi-

versours son was the contractor.

accord- Work of laying the track on the

day in Moss Point and Pascagoula railroad

look of is being pushed as rapidly as possible.

badge The company has rented an engine

supervi- from the L. & N. company, so we are

at up- informed, to draw the construction

Moun- train until the engine purchased by

ed said the M. P. & P. company arrives. This

II built road will be a great convenience to

our Moss Point friends, and its com-

pletion is look forward to with much

interest by them.

BUSINESS LOCALS.

Local Notices inserted under this head are charged for at the rate of 10 cents per line for each insertion.

W. M. Canty will do as well for you in a Suit of Clothes as any house in New Orleans or Mobile. *Carroll*

The best 5c cigar on the market to-day is the New Orleans Daily States. Ask your dealer for them.

Just received at C. Nelson's a beautiful line of Carpets, Rugs, Oilcloth and everything nice for Christmas gifts.

Attention Ladies! W. M. Canty has just received a beautiful lot of Flower Pots and Cuspadors, plain and also handsomely painted and decorated.

If you are looking for good goods and low prices I am sure there is no place in town where you can do better than at W. M. Canty's.

Smoke New Orleans States Cigars. They are hand-made and imported tobacco.

Cotton Seed Meal at \$1 per sack at W. M. Canty's and all other goods equally low.

Ladies attention! C. Nelson has a full assortment of fine Dress Goods in the latest shades and trimming to match. Also ladies' fine trimmed hats to complete the suit. Don't fail to call and examine the new goods.

Hon. James H. Neville, our able district attorney, was taken sick Monday night and was unable to attend to his business in court; therefore the court appointed Gen. Thos. S. Ford to act in his stead. Gen. Ford is one of our ablest lawyers and the State's interests will not suffer in his hands. Mr. Neville left for his home Tuesday.

Next Tuesday the municipal election comes off in this town. There are two candidates for mayor and five aldermen, and each voter must vote for one mayor and five aldermen, and it must be done by simply putting a cross (X) opposite the names of the candidates for whom you vote. The mark (X) must appear on the right hand side of the ticket in ink. Remember this, voters, and you will make no mistake.

OFFICE

Scranton, Miss.
[Report for week en

ENTE

Nov. 30. British schoo

Havana.

30. British schooner H

from Havana.

Dec. 1. American scho

from Havana.

CLEAR

Nov. 30. American sch

by L. N. Dantzler I

Cruz, with 120,329 ft

at \$1083.

Dec. 3. British schoone

goula Lumber Co.,

223,113 feet of lumbe

50,767 feet of sawn t

Dec. 4. Mexican Scho

by F. Betancourt, f

55 head of mules, va

COASTV

Dec. 4. American scho

cagoula Lumber Co.

900 feet of lumber.



H. G. TIMMO

WHAT THE DOC ABOUT A GRI

"I take pleasure in using Royal Germetner practice, and have for specific for dyspepsia, and nervous debility as ever tried. It is an exc stomach and bowel trou debilitated women I thi remedy. As a local prompt relief for pile sores of all kinds. Wit standing household rem H. C. 1

\$1.00, 6 for \$5.00. Sold by King's Royal Germetner

For sale by Dr. W. 1

and J. W. STEWA

Feb. 16. 1894.

Dr. Price's Cream
Awarded Gold Medal Midw

O. W. and N. DIVISION.

2833676
Department of the Interior, 33

BUREAU OF PENSIONS,

Washington, D. C. Sept 1, 1875.

Respectfully returned to the R & P
Office of the War Dept. for Confir-
mation also such information as
will determine whether the same
demand no longer being
with the China Division. Also
given subject of the National Admi-
stration. Please give correct
Name, or any information
touching the question of dis-
cussing in name,
4 Books,
with the same, 2187
T.C.H.

Am. Secretary
Commissioner.

Record and Pension Office,
WAR DEPARTMENT.

Respectfully returned to the

Commissioner of Pensions.

The rolls show that
roll, Capt Rudin, 8 Cannon
Co. - 1 Regt. W. 4th M. D.
7th M. D.

was enrolled May 13, 1837,
(mustered in not shown, 1837;
at Yellow River for some
and discharged
Jan. 13, 1838,
at not shown
and that the stations of the Company between
muster-in and the last-named date were as
follows:

18	Only one roll
18	on file
18	
18	
18	

Date Co. started for seat of war not shown
Date Co. left seat of war not shown

The rolls do not show the soldier absent
except as follows:

No exacting records
No further record from
Name Eliza C. C. C.
(as mentioned above) the
not been found in the
roll of above Co.

By AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR.
Colonel, U. S. Army, Chief of
SEP 5 1875
Washington, D. C.,
(COMMISSIONER OF PENSIONS),
(612)

Carroll 20.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DIVISION OF PENSIONS
10
803



Department of the Interior,
BUREAU OF PENSIONS,
Washington, D. C.

May 20, 1893

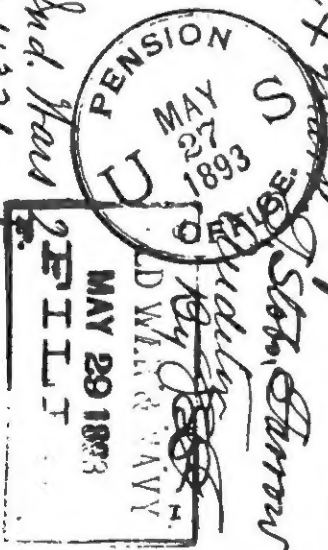
Respectfully returned to the
Honorable Auditor that
applicant that was given
action of Cash Pension for
the role by means of a
New of accepting that
then might have been
the Eliza & Carroll
to accept as an Eliza, as it
shows that land was not
Married to Eliza & Carroll
of said service -
Enclosure
and was given 2187.
J. L.
for
Spencer
Commissioner.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
SECOND AUDITORS OFFICE,
Washington, D. C.

May 26, 1893

Respectfully returned to the Hon.
Commissioner of Pensions
with the information that
the name of Eliza Carroll
is not recorded in the office of
Capt. Pennington, D. C.
Company, Va. Det.

But of a list
of members of the Post Office
to know of all the names
of Eliza Carroll, appears.
His signature
to said force of attorney is
by +



Ind. May
4321
J. L. R. 3

Carroll 16

Respectfully returned
to B. L. Filer, with
suggestion that a
search be made
for Elisha or
Elijah Carroll.
J. Cap Barrows
L. Fla. 11/11.
This warrant is
not identical.

Yours

F. Jones

Indwar Aug 21/87
Elisha Carroll

May 11/93

Carroll 17

Respectfully referred
to B. L. Fils with
request that a further
search be made
for warrant for
Elisha Carroll
Capt Barrow
Fla Vol.

Ind War Surv[#] 2187

May 1890 F. J. Ex.

Please furnish at once
(over) M. L.

Stephen Duntzigt received from
 David W. H. No. 22 06 6 - 00 - 00 for service
 under Capt. Garrison & Co. 1846
 Premium of Garrison & Co. 1846
 16 00 3 - 180 - 00 for service under Capt. Garrison
 & Co. 1846
 May 27 00 21 00

Carroll 43

OLD WAR AND NAVY DIV.

H Jones E.
Ind War Div No 2187
Elisha Carl
On Capt R Barrow
Co. Fla vols. In

SIR:

I have to request

Elisha

who it is alleged enlisted

Barrow

and was discharged.

Service is also alle

Treasury Department,

SECOND AUDITOR'S OFFICE,

Washington, D. C.

May 3rd, 1893.

Respectfully returned to the

Hon. Commr of Pensions.

Elisha Carroll - who

also appears on rolls and

in claim as "Eli Carroll,"

"E. Carroll" and "Elisha Carroll"

- was paid as private in

Capt. Barrow's Co., Fla. Vols.,

from May 13th, 1837, to Jan'y

13th, 1838, by Treasury cer-

tificate No. 2295, dated

August 17th, 1846.

He signed by mark.

J. St. P. Barrow

Auditor.

By *J. St. P.*

Ind. Wars
2187
Me D. 30

WARS.

terior,

9, 1893

of the service of

Capt

vols

Very

(Ed. 1-10-'91-50,000.)

To Hon Second Auditor
Transmit

N. O. Murphy
Acting Commissioner.

Carroll 3

No. 2187

92361-12
92361-12

**SURVIVOR'S SERVICE PENSION,
INDIAN WARS,**

Act of July 27, 1892.

Eliza Carroll

Sanchez Jackson Co. Miss.

Capt. Barrow Fla. Vol.

Florida War.

Enlisted _____, 18

Discharged _____, 18

Age 83

✓ *No M. Inv. No Mexican*
Surv claim on file

A. Jordan
Clerk.

Received *Sept 16*, 1892

Southern FILED.

City.

Attorney.

Carroll 4

(3-249.)

No. 2559

Indian Wars.

(ACT OF JULY 27, 1892.)

SURVIVOR.

Eliza Carroll

Rank Private

Company Capt. Barron's Co.

Regiment Florida Tols.

Agency: Knoxville

Rate per month, \$8.00.

Commencing July 27, 1892.

Certificate issued Oct. 12, 1893

" mailed 11/18, 1893

✓ Fee, \$ 25.

Carroll 5

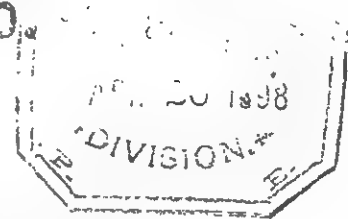
2259

151

INDIAN WARS

[3-405.]

(PENSIONER DROPPED.)



U. S. Pension Agency,



189

Hon. H. Clay Evans.

Commissioner of Pensions.

Sir:

I hereby report that the name of Elisha Carroll - for in
Cap Barrows Co Fla vols, who was a pensioner on the rolls
of this Agency, under Certificate No. 2859, and who was last paid
at \$ 8, to 4 Nov, 1894, has been dropped
because of FAILURE TO CLAIM.

Very respectfully,

J. T. Wilcox.

Pension Agent.

(2-21-13)

1-3111

NAME OF
SOLDIER:

Garrett Collins

INDIAN WARS.

NAME AND CLASS
OF DEPENDENT:

SERVICE:

Private

Garretts Castle, Va.

ENLISTED

DISCHARGED

(Florida War)

ADDITIONAL
SERVICE:

DATE OF FILING:

1892 Oct 16

CLASS

APPLICATION
NO.

CERTIFICATE
NO.

FILE NO.

ACT.

STATE.

Indian

2187

2839

Miss

COUNTY LAND:

REMARKS:

No. 1 1892

Garrett Collins

Circle 52

3

Mississippi

(One of a set of 52)

Private Private

CARD NUMBERS

1	47370482	2
2	1598	3
3	1697	4
4	1799	5
5	2901	6
6	1005	7
7	1105	8
8	1275	9
9		10
10		11
11		12
12		13
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48		49
49		50
50		51
51		52

Carroll 53

WARS.

OLD WAR AND NAVY DIV.

Department of the Interior,

BUREAU OF PENSIONS,

Washington, D. C., Apr 29, 1893

SIR:

I have to request that you will please furnish a statement of the service of

Elisha Carroll

who it is alleged enlisted

Mch

, 1836, in

Capt

Barrow

Company of

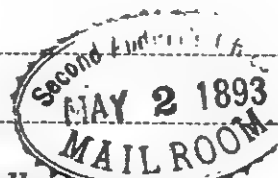
Fla vols

and was discharged

Mch

, 1837

Service is also alleged in



Very respectfully,

D. D. Murphy
Acting Commissioner.

To Hon Second Auditor

(Confederate.)

6 3 Miss.

Elisha Curriel
Lt., (New) Co. A, 3 Reg't Mississippi Inf.

Appears on

Company Muster Roll

of the organization named above,

Sept & Oct, 1862.

Enlisted: Aug 29, 1862.

Where Ocean Springs

By whom Lt. Ramsey

Period 3 yrs

Last paid:

By whom

To what time, 1862.

Present or absent Present

Remarks: Present sick.

Name appearing Col. H. H. H. H.

as Elisha Curriel

mark:

H. K. Gordon

Copyist.

6 Carroll 48 Miss.

Elisha Curriel
Lt., (New) Co. A, 3 Reg't Mississippi Inf.

Appears on

Company Muster Roll

of the organization named above,

for Jan 31 to Mar 1, 1863.

Enlisted: Aug 29, 1862.

Where Ocean Springs

By whom Lt. Ramsey

Period 3 yrs

Last paid:

By whom W. J. Bruner

To what time Nov 1, 1862.

Present or absent Present

Remarks:

mark:

H. K. Gordon

Copyist.

(Confederate)

3

Miss.

Elisha Carroll

Plt., (New) Co. A, 3 Reg't Mississippi Inf.

Appears on

Company Muster Roll

of the organization named above,

July and Aug., 1863.

Enlisted:

When Aug 29, 1862

Where

By whom O. Hulings

Period

3 yrs.

Last paid: W. J. Bruner.

By whom Jan 1, 1863.

To what time

Present or absent Absent.

Remarks: Absent sick at home.

mark:

H. K. Gordon.

Copyist.

Miss.

Carroll 47

Elisha Carroll

Plt., (New) Co. A, 3 Reg't Mississippi Inf.

Appears on

Company Muster Roll

of the organization named above,

for Sept & Oct, 1863.

Enlisted:

When Aug 29, 1862

Where

By whom

Period

Last paid:

By whom

To what time

Jan 1, 1863.

Present or absent

Remarks: Absent without leave.

mark:

H. K. Gordon.

Copyist.

Miss.

Elisha Carroll

(New) Co. A, 3 Reg't Mississippi Inf.

Appears on

Company Muster Roll

the organization named above,

Nov + Dec, 1863.

Enlisted:

When Aug 29, 1862.

Where O. Springs

By whom Lt Ramsay.

Period 3 yrs.

Last paid:

By whom W. J. Bruner

To what time Jan 1, 1863.

Present or absent Present.

Remarks:

mark:

G. K. Gordon

Copyist.

Carroll 50

Miss.

Elisha Carroll

(New) Co. A, 3 Reg't Mississippi Inf.

Appears on

Company Muster Roll

of the organization named above,

for Mar + Apr, 1864.

Enlisted:

When Aug 29, 1862.

Where O. Springs

By whom Lt Ramsay.

Period 3 yrs.

Last paid:

By whom W. J. Bruner

To what time Jan 1, 1863.

Present or absent Present.

NOTE: Reenlisted for the war at Montevallo, Ala., Apl. 11, 1864.

Remarks:

mark:

G. K. Gordon

Copyist.

Miss.

Elisha Carroll

Pvt., (New) Co. A, 3 Reg't Mississippi Inf.

appears on

Company Muster Roll

of the organization named above,

July & Aug, 1864.

listed:

When Aug 29, 1862

Where Ocean Springs

By whom Lt Ramsey

Period 3 yrs

Last paid: W. J. Brunner

By whom

To what time July 1, 1863.

Present or absent Absent

Remarks: Absent - Sick - at

hospital under Brigade

Surgeon.

mark:

G. K. Gordon

Copyist.

Miss.

Elisha Carroll

Pvt., (New) Co. A, 3 Reg't Mississippi Inf.

appears on

Company Muster Roll

of the organization named above,

Sept 1, 1864 to Feb 28, 1865.

listed:

When Aug 15, 1862.

Where Vicksburg

By whom

Period 1 yr

Last paid:

By whom

To what time, 186

Present or absent

Remarks: Discharged Nov 20,

1864.

mark:

G. K. Gordon

Copyist.

Genealogy of racially-mixed group being tracked

For generations a group of racially-mixed people in the Vancleave area lived a gray existence. Not regarded as white, nor as black, they lived in isolation. Eventually even a separate school was established to educate their children.

For 40 years, Elaine Parker of Saucier, whose mother was a student at the Live Oak Pond Indian School, has interviewed former students and their descendants to collect information on their heritage. Parker calls herself and others who share a similar background, "Iyeska," which means "many bloods."

The Vancleave Indians or Vancleave Creoles, as they are often called, evolved when early European settlers in this area — French, Spanish, Dutch and others — mingled with the Native Americans. In some of the lines, the racial mixture also included African-American blood. Living in remote areas, there was much intermarriage of these few families through the centuries. Some of the predominant family names that exist today are Ely, Bang, Boudreau, Ladnier and Waltman.

In the 1800s, some of these people applied for assistance to the Dawes Commission which had been created to identify Americans of Indian blood. However, they were rejected because many of the documents they needed to prove their Indian heritage were destroyed in courthouse fires. Identifying females was also difficult because often the early church records only identified a woman as an Indian or a half-breed, without a name.

By 1917, the school district faced a dilemma in educating the racially-mixed children, who were rejected by the black community and denied admission to the white schools. A separate school was created specifically for these youngsters, which operated until the time of integration.

School records show the children faced many obstacles in their education, ranging from lack of transportation and poverty to malnutrition and disease, Parker said.

Although she has also met threats and obstacles in her genealogical work, Parker is continuing to gather information on various family lines.

"The greatest tribute one can pay to their ancestors is to be proud of who you are," she said. "The greatest gift one can give to their descendants is don't do anything to dishonor them."

She wants anyone with information on the Live Oak Pond people to contact her at 21179 Old Highway 49, Saucier, MS 39574, or call

her at (228) 932-4395.

Tribal Conference

A Native American History and Genealogy Conference, focusing on Southern Plains Tribes, will be the weekend of March 12-13 in Lawton, Okla. Sponsors are the Friends of the Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) Research Division, the Lawton Public Library and the Southwestern Oklahoma Historical Society.

The program begins on Friday, March 12, at 7 p.m. at the Museum of the Great Plains when Jim Whitely will show and tell about the museum's Tingley Indian Store, Anadarko, Artifact Collection. Attendees may choose among 17 sessions on Saturday from 8:30-4 p.m. Wallace Coffee, chairman of the Comanche Nation, will be the keynote speaker with opening remarks by Alanzo Chalepah, Apache Tribal chairman.

A main speaker will be Dr. Bill Meadows of Southwest Missouri State University, Springfield, an authority on the "Comanche Code Talkers of World War II" and author of a book on the subject.

Registration, which includes a Native American lunch, is \$25 until March 1 and \$35 after. To request a brochure and registration form, visit

www.cityof.lawton.ok.us/library/conference.htm, or send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Friends of the OHS Research Division, P.O. Box 18781, Oklahoma City, OK 73154-0781 or the Genealogy Department, Lawton Public Library, 110 S.W. Fourth Street, Lawton, OK 73501.

Jackson County Meeting

The Jackson County Genealogical Society will meet on Saturday at 2 p.m. Since the meeting room at the Pascagoula Public Library is undergoing renovation, the group meets in the home of past president Doug Coulter Sr., 2205 9th St., Pascagoula.

Members will discuss the release of two journals and the cemetery book, which is nearing completion, during the business meeting. The society welcomes articles for its journal.

Coulter's residence may be located by turning east onto Polk Avenue, at the Sonic Drive-In on Market Street. Ninth Street runs off Polk.

Anyone interested in genealogy is invited to attend.

Regina Hines is a certified genealogical records specialist. Send all correspondence to this column to Branches & Twigs, 158 Lafayette Circle, Ocean Springs, MS 39564, or e-mail, brtw20@ametro.net



**Regina
Hines**

USA, 1917-1918

U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918 for George Carroll

Mississippi > Jackson County > Draft Card C

Feedback



Related Content



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REGISTRATION CARD

1 George Carroll 29
2 Carroll 11/10/18
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12 Carroll

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

1 Carroll
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4 Carroll
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6 Carroll
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8 Carroll
9 Carroll
10 Carroll
11 Carroll
12 Carroll



PAST IMPERFECT >>
The author recently discovered this photo of her great-great-grandmother, Tempy Burton (center), here with her former enslavers, Colonel W.R. and Elizabeth Stuart. The girls may be two of the children Burton had with the colonel.

MY FAMILY TREE—IN BLACK AND WHITE

The descendant of a master-slave union faces an unexpected challenge: how to relate to the people whose ancestors once owned hers >> *by* DIONNE FORD

» **WHENEVER** I mention certain cousins, I have to put air quotes around the word so my husband knows which ones I mean. No air quotes means they're the ones I'm related to through blood. Air quotes, and I'm referring to the ones whose family used to own mine. They are my cousins through slavery.

In 1858, when a wealthy Louisiana cotton broker named Colonel W.R. Stuart married Elizabeth McCauley, who

came from a long line of North Carolina plantation owners, her family gave the couple a slave named Tempy Burton as a wedding gift. Elizabeth was sickly, unable to have children. But Tempy could and did have several with her new master, the colonel. Their youngest child, Josephine, was my great-grandmother.

I stumbled onto this tangled legacy back in 1981, when I was 12, by asking my fair-skinned paternal grandfather, Martin Ford, if he was white. In his liquid Louisiana drawl, he said he wasn't and told me the story of his grandparents, the colonel and Tempy, and his mother, Josephine. I filed this history away for decades until my daughter one day declared that she was white, like her father (who is of Irish-Finnish ancestry), and not at all black like me.

My daughter has butterscotch skin; I'm cocoa colored, like my mom, my dad's mom and Tempy. I wanted my daughter, then five, to embrace all her roots, but at almost 40, I wasn't sure I had ever done that myself. Perhaps learning more about Josephine, my mixed-race great-grandmother, would help my daughter identify with my side as well as her father's. So I set out to unearth the story of my own interracial, Confederate-era kin. »

memoir

As Zora Neale Hurston put it in *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, “Us colored folk is branches without roots and that makes things come round in queer ways.” Investigating my family’s branches uncovered enough history to fill a dozen binders; they now line my office shelves, filled with everything from newspaper editorials by Josephine—in eloquent prose, she laid out the dangers of being too prideful—to her great-grandfather’s ruminations

genealogy website on my 38th birthday, it has become like a brand on me, a searing reminder of the people, and the pain, from which I came. The photograph is now the screen saver on my computer, the face of a homemade clock in my office, the sticker attached to a jar full of sand taken from the beach of my ancestral home, Ocean Springs, Mississippi. Tempy’s expression is haunting, as if she’s trying to solve a puzzle. The puzzle I need to solve: Why would she

ancestors—not exactly a family member, but someone the genealogy community would term a “good as cousin,” meaning a person linked through history but not necessarily through blood.

Soon after we got to know each other online, my good as cousin sent me photos of portraits of the colonel and Elizabeth, which were painted by G.P.A. Healy, a renowned artist of the time. (Healy’s painting of Abraham Lincoln hangs in the White House.) Joel also



RELATIVITY >> Dionne Ford with her new-found white “cousins,” Joel and Joan Brink. Portraits of Colonel Stuart and his wife, Ford’s connections to the Brinks.

on the Revolutionary War as he headed off to battle. And it led me to my living history, which included new friends like Monique, my third cousin once removed, who is also descended from Tempy and the colonel. Like me, Monique lives in New Jersey; like me, she is a black woman married to a white man and raising two biracial girls. I was happy to meet her—what I’d never bargained for was also meeting descendants of the people who had enslaved Tempy. But it happened. And what brought us together was a 120-year-old photograph of our ancestors, black and white.

Tempy is in the center of the picture. Elizabeth and the colonel are sitting behind her. On either side of Tempy are two mixed-race-looking girls, probably her daughters with the colonel. The one on the left, curly haired and creamy skinned like my daughters, might even be my great-grandmother, Josephine. Ever since I found this photo on a

pose for what amounted to a family portrait, a good 25 years after slavery ended, with people who stole her freedom?

“I’ve always wondered whether those two girls were children of Colonel Stuart and Tempy Burton,” wrote Joel Brink, an art historian from New Mexico, in his first e-mail to me. Joel’s wife, Joan, is a descendant of Elizabeth’s maternal grandparents, Hill and Judith Jones, the first people we know of to have enslaved Tempy (she came into the family when Elizabeth was a child and probably helped raise her; her previous life remains a mystery). Joel found the picture the same way I did, on the Internet, and reproduced it in a book about his wife’s lineage. I didn’t consider our complicated connection when I contacted Joel. I just hoped his book might provide new clues about Tempy. In establishing contact with him, I gained a passionate travel companion on my quest to reclaim my

sent me both a will in which Tempy was bequeathed as property to an heir and an appraisal of her cash value—a bone-chilling document that listed “Tempy a woman & child, year old” for \$1,600. The child was Josephine’s big brother (and Monique’s ancestor), Alfred. Monique and I helped my good as cousin, too, sending Joel obituaries we’d found about Elizabeth’s family. Together we were reclaiming our kin. Then he found the thing I most wanted: my great-grandmother Josephine’s funeral notice.

All Grandpa had ever told me about his mom was her name, Josephine, which he passed on to my dad, Joseph. Other than that, we knew nothing about her. But information in the funeral

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notice enabled me to obtain Josephine's death certificate, which told me how she'd died (from tuberculosis) and in what year (1922). It also contained a rare thing for African Americans with slavery in their family history: documentation of her white parentage. The certificate listed the colonel as Josephine's father. Thanks to my good as cousin, I had now resolved the greatest mystery of my family's past and uncovered a piece of myself in the process. So when Joel said he was coming to visit his brother, who lived only 20 minutes from Monique, I knew we had to meet.

It was a misty spring afternoon; when Monique and I arrived, Joel was standing at the top of his brother's long driveway, his white hair pulled back in a ponytail and his arms spread wide to greet us. No sooner had we hugged like lost family reunited than my good as cousin got down to ancestry business: Had we heard the rumor that one of Tempy's sons had been lynched?

"I didn't know if I should tell you before lunch," he said as we drove toward a restaurant in town.

It felt as if someone had sunk a hook into my chest and was pulling on it. At the quaint country inn, I stuffed my face with crab cakes and tried to distract myself by guessing what tangled family histories might connect the other diners there to one another. Still, I couldn't help thinking about the son Tempy had lost so violently and the improbability that she had ever sat down at a table while someone served her food the way I was being served. I'd read how some people went to lynchings as if they were the circus, gathering their children, packing a picnic lunch and heading off to see the spectacle. Thinking about it, I could barely speak, but Joel kept the conversation going. We heard how he'd met his wife while they were both in college, how they had lived in Italy while he earned his master's degree, how his children are artists like their mom. Monique had Italian connections, too. Her white maternal grandmother had immigrated to America from Bari.

Then my good as cousin turned the subject to land, asking if I had ever turned up the colonel's will.

Just a few weeks before, I'd called the Ocean Springs probate office about that very thing. The kind woman on the phone tried to find it, even though she wasn't supposed to, but no luck.

Maybe it was this talk of wills that caused Joel to mention one of his wife's ancestors, William Hill Howcutt. He was a cousin of Elizabeth, the colonel's childless widow. As Joel notes in his book, Will acquired land from Elizabeth in 1913 and was named executor of her estate when she died in 1925.

I quietly simmered. Could this be the property that had once belonged to the colonel? Without access to his will, I would never know. But this discussion of his estate reminded me that I never found evidence that any of his land had passed down to Tempy or her children. And that didn't seem right.

It was time to go. But before saying good-bye, Joel gave me a gift: an antique silver child's cup that had belonged to Elizabeth's sister. "We wanted to pass this on to you as a family memento. It is to remind us of the connection that once existed and that has been renewed," his wife had written to me on a card she'd made by hand.

The cup fit perfectly in my palm; it balanced there, trying to imagine Tempy holding it. I could see her face in its shiny surface, stoic and calm. In relief on the front of the cup was a child's face surrounded by flowers. It reminded me of the silver cup a wealthy client of my husband's had given us when our first daughter was born.

Kissing the cup on the side where there was no decoration, I silently thanked Tempy for being so strong, for carrying on and courageously bringing children into a world that refused to promise them even basic humanity. I knew this gift of an heirloom was well intended, a symbol of long history between us. But it felt like a burden.

I didn't want to have to thank Joel and his wife for something my great-great-grandmother may have polished while living in unpaid bondage to their family. I didn't want to comb through any more of their family's wills and deeds, documents in which Tempy was passed down through the generations

along with cattle and farm equipment. It seemed a double indignity to have to be so intimately connected to them in the present to learn about my past.

My anger scared me. I feared that if I gave it an inch, it would open like a crater in my soul and swallow me whole. It's an emotion that I consider a luxury belonging to others—people, like my freckle-faced husband, who don't have to fear being stereotyped as an angry black person. I tried to meditate my fury

family tree. In those first weeks after that lunch at the inn, I'd vacillated between two plans: hiring a lawyer to see if we had any claims on the colonel's estate and going back into therapy and forgetting all about this family-history business. Last night, when I saw Joel's name in my inbox, I just smiled.

I was wrong to think that the key to my identity lay solely in reclaiming my African ancestors. After all, to know Josephine, I had to learn not only

seems too small a container to hold me. These days I think of myself as a member of various African and Celtic tribes. In the same way, researching my ancestors has broadened my understanding of family. I define it now as not just the people with whom I share blood but also those with whom I share transformative experience.

Monique and I have been to the graveyard where our ancestors are buried. Tempy, the colonel, Elizabeth, Josephine and Alfred all rest in the same cemetery, the way families do. I've had lunch with Elizabeth's cousin twice removed while the colonel stared down at us from a portrait that hangs in her living room, and have spoken by phone with this woman's brother, who met Tempy when he was just a boy; I felt as if I'd reached out and touched my great-great-grandmother via his memories.

I've even found that new AA, the Ancestry Anonymous support group I longed for. It's called Coming to the Table. Started by the descendants of enslavers, including a relative of Thomas Jefferson's, it is dedicated to healing the wounds of slavery. When I was invited to speak at one of its events, one of my good as cousins, Renée Monroe, came to support me.

"Thank you for doing all of this research," she said. "It is something that we all need to face." We both wore, pinned to our shirts like badges, the photograph of our ancestors that had brought us together. That night, whenever anybody asked, I pointed to the picture over my heart and introduced Renée as my cousin.

My relationship with all of my good as cousins continues to evolve. Recently I met Joel's wife, Joan, for the first time. Now she and I have begun our own conversation about our complex connection.

There's nothing we can do about our mean and messy history, but there is something we can do about our legacy. We can acknowledge our past, be one another's present and live. *

DIONNE FORD is at work on a memoir about her slave and master ancestors and her immediate interracial family.



FINDING JOSEPHINE >>
Ford at what she believes to be the unmarked grave of her great-grandmother. With her husband and daughters.

away, outrun it on the elliptical machine. But the second I thought I had it licked, Joel would do something innocent like e-mail a picture of his wife, her sister and their mom with the subject line YOUR COUSINS, and I would go into a rage.

As uncomfortable as I felt, however, I didn't want to close the door on this journey. Still, I needed a road map for how to proceed—or at least a chance to hear from others in the same situation, such as the descendants of Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings. Perhaps we could start a support group, another AA: Ancestry Anonymous.

IT'S TWO and a half years later now, and I've gotten an e-mail from my good as cousins inviting me to a family gathering. My feelings about them, the information they've shared and what I should do with it, have been as varied as the palette of skin tones in my

about her black mother, Tempy—so full of faith that three ministers spoke at her funeral—but also about her white father, Colonel Stuart, a planter who was audacious in all his pursuits. In the 1980s, when Jesse Jackson declared that we should start calling ourselves African Americans, I clung to the term *black*. Africa was a huge continent with people as diverse as Egyptians and Ethiopians. It had been more than a century, maybe even several, since any of my relatives had actually lived there. African was my ancestry, but *black* was my experience. It had taken me so long to feel comfortable in my own skin and unashamed of my color that I wasn't going to let the word go, even if it was not PC. Now even *black*